



[www.bransonmo.gov](http://www.bransonmo.gov)

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

**Date:** October 6, 2011

**Contact:** Ted Martin, fire chief (417) 243-2790 (office) or (417) 332-7112 (cell)

**IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK. PROTECT YOUR FAMILY FROM FIRE!**  
**Branson Fire & Rescue encourages residents to keep their homes safe**  
**during Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15**

Fires can strike anywhere – in structures, automobiles, and the outdoors – but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and most preventable. During the week of October 9-15, Branson firefighters will team up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and other fire departments to promote this year's campaign of *Protect Your Family from Fire!*

"This year's campaign focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires including cooking, heating, electrical equipment, candles and smoking materials," said Branson Fire Chief Ted Martin. "Each year over 2000 people die in home fires, and over 12,000 injuries reported nationwide."

Martin said nearly all of these deaths and injuries can be prevented by taking a few steps such as not leaving stove tops and other cooking appliances unattended, keeping space heaters away from combustible materials and turning them off before going to bed and not overloading electrical circuits.

Fires can occur at any time and in any room of the home.

"This is the perfect time to install and or test smoke alarms in the home, develop a home fire escape plan for your family knowing two ways out with a family meeting place outside, and take steps to eliminate fire hazards in the home," said Martin.

Branson firefighters will be presenting fire safety education programs at area schools, businesses and civic organizations throughout the month of October. If you would like to schedule a program, contact the fire prevention division by calling (417) 243-2790.

For more information about fire safety in the home and business, contact your local fire department, or on the web site at [www.bransonmo.gov/fire](http://www.bransonmo.gov/fire) or on the NFPA web site [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

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Note: The media is invited to attend any of our school programs throughout the month of October. Please contact Fire Chief Ted Martin or Division Chief Randy Fogle for scheduled times.